



# COD Processing Update For Pell Grants

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October 8, 2004

## *Pell Grants*

### COD News

#### **COD System Maintenance Planned For Sunday, October 10, 2004 (10/06/04)**

The COD System will undergo routine maintenance on Sunday, October 10, 2004 from 2:00 A.M. until Noon (ET). During this period, users will not be able to submit or retrieve data via the COD web site. Additionally, batches submitted by schools will be held and not processed until after the COD System comes back up. COD apologizes for any inconvenience this outage may cause. If you have any questions, contact the COD School Relations Center.

#### **Reminder: Register For The 2004 Orlando Electronic Access Conference (10/04/04)**

As a reminder, the first 2004 Electronic Access Conference (EAC) will be held November 1, 2004 through November 4, 2004 in Orlando, Florida. The registration deadline for the Orlando EAC is October 13, 2004. COD will be the subject of several break-out sessions at the conference, and knowledgeable staff will be on duty in the PC Lab to answer COD-related questions. You can register for the Orlando EAC at [http://edeworkshop.ncspearson.com/regist\\_Orlando.htm/](http://edeworkshop.ncspearson.com/regist_Orlando.htm/).

The EAC room block at the Royal Pacific Resort is nearly sold out and only a few rooms remain for the pre-conference days. An additional block of rooms has been reserved at the Hard Rock Hotel beginning on Sunday, October 31, 2004.

Further details regarding the EAC Conference and hotel reservations are available at <http://edeworkshop.ncspearson.com/welcome.htm/>.

#### **COD Holiday Schedule For October 11, 2004 (10/01/04)**

The COD School Relations Center will be open on Monday, October 11, 2004, Columbus Day. The COD System will accept and process data from schools and send back acknowledgements on Monday, October 11, 2004. However, requests for changes in funding levels and for funds will not be processed until Tuesday, October 12, 2004. Further information regarding Columbus Day processing and customer service hours for COD and other FSA/ED call centers is available in an Electronic Announcement on the IFAP web site at <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/>.

#### **End Of Federal Fiscal Year-Impact On Pell Grant And Direct Loan Funds Availability (09/10/04)**

September 30, 2004 marked the end of the Department of Education's 2004 Federal fiscal year. Some of the Department's core financial systems are on a modified processing schedule while the Department finalizes its processing and accounting for Fiscal Year 2004. Schools should refer to the Electronic Announcement on the IFAP web site,



# COD Processing Update For Pell Grants

<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0909CODEndofFYImpact.html/>, for details on how Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) processing is affected, and how this may impact the way your school processes Pell Grant and Direct Loan records during the days surrounding the September 30th date.

## 2003-2004 Pell Grant Processing Deadline (10/01/04)

As a reminder, under 34 CFR 690.83, schools must submit student payment data by September 30. Therefore, the deadline for electronically transmitting records for the Federal Pell Grant 2003-2004 Award Year was Thursday, September 30, 2004.

After September 30, 2004, COD will –

- Accept and process decreases to previously accepted 2003-2004 award originations and decreases to previously accepted 2003-2004 disbursements; and
- Accept and process originations and disbursements of new 2003-2004 awards or 2003-2004 award amount increases only if 1) the student was in a POP situation during the 2003-2004 Award Year or 2) the Department has granted Administrative Relief or Extended Processing for the 2003-2004 Award Year, including extended deadlines for schools affected by the recent severe weather conditions.

**Note:** Unless one of these situations applies, the COD System will reject originations and disbursements of new 2003-2004 awards or 2003-2004 award amount increases and return Full Participant Edit 43/Phase-In Edit 399 (New Award Amount or Award Increase Received After End of Processing Year and Institution has Not Been Granted Administrative Relief) or Full Participant Edit 71/ Phase-In Edit 417 (New Disbursement Increase, or Payment Trigger to "Y" Received After End of Processing Year and Institution Has Not Been Granted Administrative Relief).

For additional information about Administrative Relief and extended processing, refer to the Electronic Announcement on IFAP at <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0922pelldeadline0203.html>. For details regarding extended deadlines for schools affected by the recent severe weather conditions, refer to GEN-04-09 on the IFAP web site at <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/dpclatters/GEN0409.html/>.

## All Schools Must Be COD Full Participants Beginning With 2005-2006 Award Year [08/02/04 (Updated 08/09/04)]

As a reminder, **all** schools must be Full Participants beginning with the 2005-2006 Award Year. This means that **all** schools must be able to submit 2005-2006 Pell and/or Direct Loan origination and disbursement data to the COD System using the COD Common Record in XML format.

Note: FSA informed schools in [GEN-04-06](#) that the implementation of the Common Record: ISIR will not be implemented for the 2005-2006 Award Year. The adjustment of the Common Record: ISIR implementation schedule **does not** affect the requirement that **all** schools must be COD Full Participants beginning with the 2005-2006 Award Year.



# COD Processing Update For Pell Grants

Current Phase-In Participants can refer to the following sections of the 2004-2005 COD Technical Reference (<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/cod/0405CODTechRefDraft.html/>) for information that may be helpful in determining their Full Participant solution:

- Volume I, Section 3 provides information about XML.
- Volume II, Section 1 and Volume V, Section 1 provide information about FSA's EDExpress software that can be used to submit data to the COD System.

Updated information about Full Participant sign up for the 2005-2006 Award Year is posted on the IFAP web site at <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0806CODFullParticReq0506.html/>.

## Reports and Data Requests



Except as listed below, all Pell Grant reports and data requests are available as specified in Volume VIII, Section 8 of the 2004-2005 COD Technical Reference posted on the IFAP web site at [www.IFAP.ed.gov/](http://www.IFAP.ed.gov/). There are issues with the following Pell Grant reports and/or data requests:

- Pell Year-to-Date (YTD) Record—

For all award years, is NOT being sent to schools' SAIG mailboxes. Beginning October 2, 2004, all YTD requests received either on the COD web site or via the SAIG are being held and will not be filled by COD until further notice. Please do not submit a subsequent request for the report at this time.

COD has taken this action after determining that since September 20, 2004 the disbursement sequence number for system-generated negative disbursements and web-generated disbursements has been populated incorrectly on the YTD record. Accurate disbursement sequence numbers for these records can be viewed on the COD web site.

COD is working on a code fix to correct this issue and will not produce additional reports until the issue has been corrected. (10/05/04)

- Pell POP Report—

For 2004-2005, is not available on the COD web site. COD is evaluating the functionality to push the report to schools' COD newsboxes. Report is being pushed to schools' SAIG mailboxes (Message Class PGPR05OP). (08/25/04)



# COD Processing Update For Pell Grants

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- Verification Status Report— For 2004-2005, is not being pushed to schools' SAIG mailboxes and is not available on the COD web site. COD is evaluating all functionality. (08/25/04)

## Resolved Issues In Clean Up

COD has implemented code fixes for the issues listed below and is cleaning up the affected records. After a clean up has been completed, its status will be updated and it will remain in this section for an additional 7 calendar days.

<u>Issue</u>	<u>In Progress</u>	<u>Completed</u>
Disbursements Not Displaying On COD Web Site	√	
COD Edit 116 Not Working Correctly	√	

## Current Issues

### **Duplicate Disbursement Information In COD [05/06/04 (Updated 09/17/04)]**

COD has learned that duplicate disbursement numbers are displaying incorrectly on the COD web site's Award Disbursements Information screen. On this screen under the Disbursement Number column, disbursement numbers are appearing twice. However, when viewing the Disbursement Information screen, each disbursement displays a different status (Pending or Disbursed).

COD has made significant progress in researching the cause of this issue and anticipates a resolution in September 2004. Updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

### **Student Name And Date Of Birth Not Updated In COD [05/03/04 (Updated 09/17/04)]**

As previously reported, COD identified an issue where new 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 origination records are accepted in COD; however, the student's Name and Date of Birth (DOB) updates submitted by the school are not displaying on the COD web site's Person Information screen. The COD web site is reflecting the Name and DOB from the previous award year. Additionally, in some cases, changes to Name and DOB for previously accepted origination records are not displaying on the Person Information screen as well.

COD is still analyzing this issue and appreciates your patience. Updates will be provided as more information becomes available.



## COD Processing Update For Pell Grants

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### **Some Null Tags Submitted Via Batch Not Updated In COD [08/31/04 (Updated 09/16/04)]**

As previously reported, a null tag containing a *nil="true"* attribute can be submitted for some data elements in a Common Record document to remove or delete content currently on file in the COD database. Recently, COD determined that some null tags are being accepted by the COD System, but are not appropriately updating the COD database. This means that if a school submits a null tag for some data elements, the COD System is ignoring it and the content on the COD database for that data element is not being removed.

On September 7, 2004 COD implemented a code fix to allow a null tag submitted for the Low Tuition and Fees Code data element to update the COD database correctly. Additionally, a null tag submitted for the Verification Status Code data element continues to update the COD database correctly. COD continues research to ensure that all applicable data elements reported with a null tag will update the COD database correctly. Note that not all data elements can be submitted with null tags; refer to the COD Technical Reference, Volume II, Section 3 for the applicable data elements.

In the meantime, schools needing to remove or delete content in COD for a specific data element may do so via the COD web site.

### **Rejected Records Not Viewable On The COD Web Site [07/30/04 (Updated 08/26/04)]**

Some schools are receiving an error message when attempting to view rejected records on the COD web site's Batch Detail Information screen. Clicking on the Rejected link in the Award No. column causes the following error message to display: "An unexpected error has occurred. Please contact your administrator if the problem persists."

On August 10, 2004, COD partially corrected this problem by migrating a code fix to correct the affected Phase-In records. Next, the code fix will be migrated to correct the affected Common Records. COD will provide more information about the code fix for Common Records as soon as it becomes available.